

RHEUMATOLOGY SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

This SOP is developed for the rheumatology disease practice. Diagnoses managed by this practice include, but are not limited to:

- Rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile RA
- Lupus
- Sarcoidosis
- OA, arthralgia/myalgia, inflammatory polyarthritis, psoriatic arthritis
- Muscle strain and spasm, bursitis/tendonitis
- Fibromyalgia
- Dermatomyositis
- Scleroderma, Raynaud phenomenon
- Sjogren's syndrome
- Mixed/undifferentiated connective tissue disorder
- Gout
- Spondyloarthropathies
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Polymyalgia rheumatic, giant cell arteritis
- Spinal stenosis
- Osteoporosis
- Vasculitis, various pain syndromes

Associated illnesses may include, but are not limited to various skin disorders, nail disorders, alopecia, disorders of the eye and lids, diseases of the sinuses, oral cavity and pharynx, neck masses, pulmonary disease, CHF, HTN, CAD, anemias, leukemias, lymphomas, platelet and coagulation disorders, diseases of the GI tract, liver and pancreas.

General symptoms to be evaluated by the PA include, but are not limited to:

- Joint pain, stiffness and swelling
- Rashes
- Fatigue and weakness
- GI symptoms
- Substance abuse
- Infectious diseases and cellulitis
- Fever
- Bone pain
- Weight loss
- Parasthesias

Subspecialty Tasks

- Joint injection and aspiration
- Corticosteroid and viscosupplementation injections
- Initiate and refill appropriate medications to treat rheumatic disease to include:
 1. Prednisone and various oral steroids
 2. NSAIDs
 3. Antimalarial
 4. Antidepressants
 5. Skeletal muscle relaxants
 6. Neurontin/Lyrica
 7. Bisphosphonates
 8. DMARDS